CONFIDENTIAL

```
PAGE 01          ROME   16694   191455Z
ACTION AF-01


INFO   LOG-00   AID-01   CA-02    CIAE-00   SMEC-00   OASY-00   DODE-00
       DS-00    EUR-01   FDRE-01  H-01      IMMC-01   TEDE-00   INR-00
       IO-16    L-01     ADS-00   MFLO-03   M-00      NSAE-00   NSCE-00
       OCS-06   OIC-02   OMB-01   PA-01     PM-00     PRS-01    P-01
       SB-00    SCT-03   SNP-00   SP-00     SSO-00    SS-00     TRSE-00
       T-00     USIE-00  FMP-00   PMB-00    DSCC-00   DRL-09    G-00
       /052W
                 ------------------7ED258   191626Z /38
```

R 191428Z OCT 94
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0831
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 016694

EMBASSY VATICAN MESSAGE NO. 489/94

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, RW, VT
SUBJECT: VATICAN ON RWANDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. U.S. AMBASSADOR TO RWANDA DAVID RAWSON MET
OCTOBER 17 WITH HOLY SEE ACTING FOREIGN MINSTER
CLAUDIO CELLI AND FORMER NUNCIO TO KIGALI ABP.
GIUSEPPE BERTELLO, AND ALSO WITH PRESIDENT OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02   ROME   16694   191455Z
VATICAN'S COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE CARDINAL
ETCHEGARAY, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DEPUTY MSGR.
DIARMUID MARTIN. IN BOTH MEETINGS AMB. RAWSON
EXPLAINED U.S. POSITIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE
OF PLAY IN RWANDA. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANT ROLE
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CAN PLAY IN NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION, AND MADE A STRONG PLEA TO BOTH
OFFICIALS FOR THE VATICAN TO REENGAGE DIPLOMATICALLY
IN RWANDA AND FOR THE CHURCH TO BE MORE ACTIVE ON THE
GROUND.

3. MSGR. CELLI REPLIED THAT THE THE CHURCH IS NOT
NOW IN A POSITION TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN RWANDA. HE
SAID THE CHRUCH LOST ABOUT A THIRD OF ITS OFFICIALS
IN THE RWANDA MASSACRES, INCLUDING 98 PRIESTS AND
THREE BISHOPS.

AMB. RAWSON REPLIED
BY STRESSING THAT, DESPITE THE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES,
THERE IS A CENTRAL ROLE FOR THE CHURCH TO PLAY IN
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

4. THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT CLEARED BY AMB. RAWSON
BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM POST. FLYNN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN